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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

Vol. 72 No. 6 JUNE 1972

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, Calif., 94596
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PARK COUNCIL HEARS GLENN SEABORG AND ELECTS OFFICERS

by Dick Wilson

At the recent annual meeting of the Contra Costa Park Council, Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg was the featured speaker. Dr. Seaborg, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, discussed scientific progress toward solving serious environmental problems and developing new energy sources. His talk, illustrated with excellent slides, emphasized that if we were willing to devote the talents and facilities now available in our country to developing clean nuclear and solar power plants and to nonpolluting automobile engines we face a bright future. At the same time, he said that these problems would require concentrated attention for a decade or more.

This dinner meeting in the Saranap Inn in Walnut Creek was well attended by other Park Council members aside from Dr. Seaborg, who is still affiliated with the U.C. Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley.

During the business meeting there was an election of officers. Bill Dickinson of Concord was reelected president and Manny Lindner of Danville first vice president. Area vice presidents are Sue Watson, Orinda; Joann Johnson, Antioch; and Al Burton, Pleasant Hill. Katie Haubensak, Pleasant Hill, is recording secretary; and John Gravell, Walnut Creek, is treasurer.

Directors are Mary Bowerman, Lafayette; Tom Castagnola, Pleasant Hill; Ed Gustely, Orinda; Jane Helrich, Clayton; Sharon Moniz, Pittsburg; Jane Putnam, Orinda; Carl Weber, Orinda; Pat Whittle, Danville; Peg Kovar (city councilwoman), Walnut Creek; and Dick Wilson, Walnut Creek.

SANE SPONSORS WATER FORUM

Water, a most critical component of our environment, was the subject of a meeting the evening of May 18 in College Park High School sponsored by the enthusiastic youth who comprise SANE. Bob Durell, President of "Save America's Natural Environment", was introduced by Jane Helrich, advisor to SANE and a director of the Park Council. Durell welcomed the mixed audience of young people (who sandwiched this meeting between two busy days in college and high school) and older persons representing several conservation and homeowners organizations. Then he turned the meeting over to the moderator, Dr. Wm. Landis, Head of Mathematics and Sciences for County Schools.

Excellent presentations were made by Senator Nejedly, Chairman of the State Senate Committee on Natural Resources; Craig Randall, President of the Contra Costa County Water District; David Niles, Head of the Central County Sanitary District; and O. H. Harter, of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The theme of these talks and subsequent discussions was that by the mid 1980s we'll need much more usable water. Since most of the available runoff from the mountains is now being tapped, more recycling of water (only now beginning) is essential. This will be the best means of keeping water in the Delta at acceptable quality, and providing a potable source for increasing population and sufficient quantity for industry. Obviously most of the water that now drains out through more than 600 miles of sewer in the Central Sanitary District must eventually be recycled, even though costly.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

W. S. Dickinson, President

We have now reached the end of another active year and must await the moving pen of the history writers to discover our successes and failures. Whatever their view, it is my humble opinion that we can walk proudly in the knowledge that we tried. If nothing else, we have contributed much effort toward making our community a better place to live. But we must never forget those things that still remain to be done if we and future generations are to survive. We have come a long way but still have so far to go.

Whatever degree of success we managed to achieve during the past year was achieved only by the efforts of all of you. Great credit must go to those of you who truly "put your shoulder to the wheel" and pushed our wagon toward the stars. No leader could ask for more cooperation than I have received from your officers and board of directors. Each has collectively accomplished all that was asked of him or her. For that, as your president, I am truly grateful, as your friend I am humbled by such friendship.

Now, as we look back on the activities of the past year I believe we can take pride in such accomplishments as the following: adoption by the county of a good park dedication ordinance and passage of the park tax increase AB925, legislation that will provide much needed park land and open space for future development; temporary preservation of Frank's Tract, Shell Ridge, Morgan Territory, and the Coal Mines area; added our voice to those who cry out against the destruction of our wild rivers, beautiful coast lines,

Contra Costa Park Council is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Park Council is dedicated to fostering the natural beauty of the county, preserving open space, and providing adequate opportunity for healthful recreation. Contributions ($2 a year for students; $5 a year and up for individuals; $10 a year and up for organizations) are tax-deductible.

and majestic wilderness areas; and included, rather than excluded, our youth and young citizens through thoughtful counsel and encouragement to take action through their own organizations such as SANE, in our fight for the conservation and preservation of our environment and natural resources. We may not have accomplished all that we wanted to do, all that we attempted to do, or all that we needed to do, but these things we did do. Let us then take pride in such accomplishments.

It is time to pick up our load and move forward again. We must reach out and drive new pitons above us, pick up the slack in our lines, and climb ever upwards toward our goal. We can keep our hold on a strong dedication ordinance while we develop a new route through a comprehensive land-use plan: a plan that will not only preserve our open space, provide necessary parks, and protect our environment and natural resources, but one that will be so finely balanced that it protects the rights of others as well. It must provide for the economy that makes it all worthwhile.

Let us plan together, work together, and reach our star together. We can, we must, and we will.

Please let me thank you once again for demonstrating your confidence in me by reelecting me your president. I will do my utmost to merit your continued support. I know you can count on your new board as well.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR STATE SENATE

Mr. John A. Nejedly (Incumbent, Rep.)

Senator Nejedly received the American Motors Award in 1966 as one of Ten Outstanding Americans in the field of Conservation. That honor was for his leadership in the fight to protect water quality in the San Francisco Bay - Delta System; participation in Sierra Club high-country rehabilitation projects; development of summer camp projects for our young people; and efforts in acquisition and planning Park Council projects, culminating in the formation of our East Bay Regional Park District.

His participation in Point Pinole and Mt. Diablo acquisitions and preservation of Frank's Tract State Park are well known. Nejedly is chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife. He authored the 1971 Nejedly-Beilenson Act establishing statewide management of pesticides.

The Nejedly-Z'Berg Solid Waste Act of 1972 will establish a solid-waste management program. Nejedly is currently the author of the Forest Practices Act and SB 328, providing for referendum by the people prior to the sale of EBMUD watershed lands.

Mr. Minot W. "Mike" Tripp (Dem.)

As a Park Council member, I share its commitment to preserving our vanishing open space.

Contra Costa needs many new parks: Pt. Pinole, the rest of Mt. Diablo and Las Trampas Ridge, and the coal mine area. And we need open space throughout our county for trails and scenic easements, to let people be close to green and growing things.

Money is only part of the answer, though I will vote to provide it. But the critical challenge is to take land use planning out of the back rooms and away from the developers and the special interests.

To protect the public interest and preserve our open space we need regional or statewide controls over land use decisions. The incumbent opposed a Bay Area Conservation Agency to provide them. But without controls, planning will remain a joke and permanent open space a visionary dream of a few conservationists.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

Mr. James E. Moriarty (Incumbent)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Park Council for the great assistance given to me in designing and getting approval of the county park dedication ordinance. Although I have been active in other environmental areas, obtaining passage of this ordinance gave me the most personal satisfaction. I will continue the fight to keep a strong park ordinance.

At my urging County policy now requires consideration of aesthetics in design; replacement of trees destroyed in road widening; landscaping and maintaining center strips in major county roads; and inclusion of bicycle paths in road projects according to the General Plan.

I have introduced an historical landmarks ordinance and a tree preservation ordinance and will continue efforts to improve our environment. My endorsement by the following would seem to speak loud and clear of my record. William Penn Mott, Jr., Richard Trudeau, Alvin Burton, Fred Blumberg, Maynard Munger, and Eugene Ballock.

Mrs. Lois Hunter Brodrick

In 1950 we brought our family to a charming little hamlet called Orinda. Since that time we have painfully witnessed our quaint little community whet the appetite of the suburban monster. It has nibbled away at our hills, devoured our trees, and clogged our valleys with its carbon infested breath.

It's decision time! CAGE THE MONSTER NOW or passively watch our unique and treasured way of life disappear in the on-rush of cement and "rows and rows of cardboard boxes, all looking the same".

We must preserve our natural landscape today by dropping anchor on the unlimited rezoning that has produced unsightly and in some cases unnecessary building.

Testing to determine soil stability must be undertaken to prevent potentially dangerous construction on erosive soil. I was in real estate during one of our heavy winters and witnessed slide damage far and beyond that generally reported. Smog is no longer a city dweller's problem; it has crept into our lives from all directions.

Rather than regional government, I would prefer strong liaisons between existing governments in order to enact unified restrictions to control smog, water pollution, and other environmental factors.

Mrs. Joan Garbarino

My credentials for public office are not fictional or subjective. They have been tested in the only arena that counts: the community in which I live. I have spearheaded the campaigns against the visual pollution of the "doggie-diner" BART station, the clutter of commercial advertising in BART, and the high-density Orindawoods development. Decisions will be made in the next 4 years which will determine whether our communities retain their rural, residential character, or whether we become the Newark, New Jersey, of the West Coast. For too long we've sat idle while special interests working behind the scenes have shaped our future without reference to the will of the people. I am beholden to no one.

I question the wisdom of any more freeways and any deviation from low-density zoning codes. I would work for tough and effective county planning and land-use policies which would guarantee the preservation of the amenities we enjoy here and the quality of life which first attracted us to this area.

Mr. Aldo P. Guidotti

Insure that close associations between certain developers and County officials do not result in decisions favoring the developer at the expense of the homeowner and the environment. County officials are supposed to represent the public. The public interest is served by preserving the natural charm of our area, not in allowing such disasters as "Ant Hill" in Lafayette.

Make the Regional Parks more readily accessible by adopting regular bus service thereto if necessary.

Analyze carefully any proposed projects for mini-parks in the area. A practical consideration must be balanced against the pleasing thought of creating such parks. Maintenance and policing of mini-parks would entail constantly rising costs which are particularly difficult for people with fixed incomes to defray.

Neighborhood parts developed on school properties will save land, provide educational resources, and prevent the need for police protection, and eliminate sites for crime.

Mrs. Selma King

As a resident of the Central County area for 19 years, I believe the next four years will be a critical time in this county. The rampant growth of the recent past must not be continued. This can be done only through proper planning and zoning.

Most of the problems of this county have been caused by the uncontrolled growth. These problems include air, water and noise pollution; higher crime rate; overcrowded schools; traffic congestion; high taxes and the diminishing amount of open space available.

We must attract non-polluting industries to our county rather than more and more high-density housing developments. Most people realize that taxes generated by housing are never enough to pay for the services demanded by the occupants of these units.

I favor retaining our county Park Dedication Ordinance as it is now written. I will vigorously oppose any effort to weaken this ordinance.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

Mr. Edmund A. Linscheid (Incumbent)

As Contra Costa's only full time supervisor, I am persistently fighting to preserve and protect the natural beauty of our environment. I have: promoted expansion of Diablo State Park. Been a prime mover in funding acquisition of Las Trampas Regional Park. Backed plans to acquire and restore 1858 adobe homestead of pioneer Contra Costa rancher John Marsh, county's first physician. Set in motion plans to extend bicycle and hiking trails and bridle paths throughout the county. Asked legislature to include historic San Ramon Valley Road in California Scenic Highway System. Opposed widening old Danville Highway.

For 12 years, as member and now chairman of board of supervisors, I have energetically protected the bays and sloughs and marshes of the Delta and its fish and wildlife resources. I have fought hard to keep southern California from preempting the lion's share of fresh water in our Delta.

Last year I voted for two tax overrides with proviso that 80% of revenue be used to acquire land for East Bay Regional Park System. The second supervisors' vote carried proviso that this park system come up with master plan of peak development - a 20% override in all - when EBRPD master plan is approved.

Mr. Francis X. Driscoll

I urge a crash program to save the Delta environment (which has been suffering irreparable damage since the early 1950's and at an ever increasing rate). I would (a) have the courts stop the destruction of the ecology of the Delta; (b) enact into law the quality standards set forth in the Delta Water rights decision (1379); and (c) pursue a high-priority research and development program involving desalinization and reclamation of waste water to solve the long-range water needs of California.

I would promote aggressive measures to reduce and prevent all kinds of pollution, (e.g., tighter controls on new development and strict time limits to correct existing infractions).

Oppose further construction of freeways until BARTD effects are known.

As a member of the Walnut Creek City Council, I was an original supporter of the park land dedication ordinance. More recently I have supported the park service area proposal for the Alamo-Danville area. The county should develop a workable park and recreation program and have a firm open-space policy and adhere to it.

Clifford Stabler

A corrupt 300-year-old practice must come to an end. America's "growth ethic" has always been considered "good for business, and what's good for business is good for America".

It was fine when there were not more than a handful of colonists on the Eastern seaboard. It had not yet reached cataclysmic proportions during the land rushes of the 1870s. But the rampant rape of the land occurring this century is based upon unchanged principles which need changing; for we have inherited ghettoes, treeless prairies, dust bowls, air and water pollution, denuded hills, and San Fernando Valleys where one can walk for 40 miles across the roof-tops.

The new principle is "what's good for the environment is good for America".

The challenge facing Contra Costa County is this: are we going to permit the rape of our "undeveloped" areas or will we preserve our inheritance for future generations? BART will be the fuel that will intensify the greedy heat of irresponsible developers. They will attempt to strip away trees to answer the "social need" of housing. If only they were truly so beneficent.

Many areas of our county do not have master plans, and need them desperately. Those areas that do have plans like San Ramon Valley, are facing an even more desperate picture: the County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors often repeal the plan's tenets by granting undeserved zoning changes to developers. This must be stopped now.

Marin County Supervisors almost never have a zoning change request because they uphold the integrity of their master plan. However, our County's Board faces an agenda 80% of which is requests for zoning change. This dangerous precedent must be overturned in favor of the people.

Our supervisors have not been leaders in environmental protection. They have been typical politicians only saying "me too" after it becomes popular. They must be replaced with those dedicated to leadership, not "followship".

When do we establish parks and trails? Fifty years from now when the land is all developed? Now is the time! We must learn from the mistakes of our forefathers, not repeat them.

Each developer should be expected to have parks, trails, and school-site preparation. Those moving into the area will pay for those sites, not those who preceded them and have already paid their way. The result may be surprising. When developers realize that a community has an unbreakable resolve and that living in harmony with the environment is "good business", they will join and work with us in protecting our inheritance.

It will require a dedication at the community, county, state, and federal levels to achieve many of our goals. For example, just because we wish to protect our Delta is not enough. The thirsty monster of Southern California is demanding more and more water. If all levels of government do not work in concert to preserve the Delta by raising water quality standards, irreparable damage will occur to wildlife, sport fishing, and agriculture. The Delta is the "life-blood" of the East County. No blood donations allowed. In other words, the Peripheral Canal must be stopped.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mr. Ronald Dellums (Incumbent, Dem.)

During this session of the Congress, I have sponsored or cosponsored almost four dozen pieces of legislation which would have imposed stricter controls on operations polluting our air and water resources or would have provided for expanded Federal park facilities.

Environmental protection and revitalization is of the utmost importance to our nation. We can no longer afford a continued, perpetual and non-rational growth process if we hope to survive through the century. We can no longer afford the luxury of polluting our streams, lakes and ocean waters, of polluting the water through the use of pesticides with strong residual effects, or of polluting the air through the irrational expansion of our freeway systems and the encouragement of the use of private automobiles for every purpose. We must, instead, accurately measure the costs of sacrifice that our survival will establish.

We must also move to insure that there are sufficient natural and structured parks for the future, and that open space policies are strictly adhered to and expanded. We owe nothing less to future generations than a planet which retains the beauty of nature and the respite that beauty offers from the toil of life.

Mr. David W. Schich (Rep.)

In 1972, 220 million visitors are expected to visit our national parks: an attendance figure roughly equal to the total U. S. population. Although 25 new parks have been added since 1969 bringing the total to 284, the summertime traffic jams are more reminiscent of downtown rush hour than nature's grandeur. Rangers are no longer just naturalists; they have to be policemen.

Current plans to ban autos from many parks and to use buses to transport sightseers are a must if we are to retain the beauty and tranquility our parks were intended to provide.

Mobility of the 1970s and the affluence and increased leisure time of Americans illustrate the job that Congress has in trying to hold down budget expenditures while providing services that are in obvious demand.

To me, that demand justifies providing funds, and I intend to pursue an active legislative program to strengthen and increase our National Park System.

Mr. Stephen N. Sestanovich (Dem.)

I've spent most of my working life in the U.S. Diplomatic Service. I'm familiar with global problems. The fact is, there isn't a single major problem today that isn't a global problem.

Take pollution. We know a great deal worldwide about the causes and cure of pollution. We know that 70% of air pollution is caused by automobiles. Why not free-fare BART as a fresh idea to limit the use of cars? This is an imaginative solution. We must take hold of it and put it to work.

Take our schools. Too much has been said about the faults of busing..and too much that is merely a hypocritical way to dodge school integration. Neither busing in itself nor obsolete neighborhood schools can bring quality integrated education for all children. We need a fresh idea here too: the educational park. It would solve the problem of crisscross busing to achieve racial integration, would provide first-class education, and would be cheaper in the long run. It takes boldness, imagination, and the full use of our available knowledge.

Mr. Vossa E. Wysinger (Rep.)

One of the most important problems we must tackle in the 7th District is the preservation of our environment with the balanced objective of retaining progress of our standard of living for all residents of our area.

While some of our material progress has resulted in adverse affect upon our surroundings, amplified by over-long neglect, our concerns now must be to enlist the skills, abilities, and technical know-how of our engineers, scientists, and managers to improve and implement benefits to our environment to achieve pure and clean air, water, and waste disposal systems such that the quality of life is improved for all.

Not only will this program create more jobs for our citizens, but with a cooperative government program of credits and incentives for industry and business, together with research grants, this will lead to a better economy together with an improved environment for all the people.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR ASSEMBLY, TENTH DISTRICT

Mr. Daniel E. Boatwright (Dem.)

I am adamantly opposed to the State of California's scheme of a Peripheral Canal to rob Contra Costa County and the entire Delta area of the river water upon which its very life depends. Pledge a fight to destroy the Peripheral Canal concept, before it destroys us.

Everybody says he is for ecology; few know what it really means. Those of us battling the Peripheral Canal know full well that it doesn't just mean preserving some pretty trees or preventing twenty-five foot lots around a mountain lake; it means handling man's way with the world in a fashion that will not destroy man's own works and his ability to survive. Thus, those in Sacramento must fight all types of pressures and bad bills that hurt not only our natural beauties but also those resources that give us our jobs, our pleasures, and our principles.

Mr. Warren N. Boggess (Rep.)

There is no more critical issue facing the residents of Contra Costa County than the immediate need to take steps toward the preservation of open space and, wherever possible, the rural atmosphere of our county. There are two major areas which demand immediate action. One is our beautiful Mt. Diablo, particularly the land areas at its base which are in danger of encroachment from residential and commercial uses. Some sort of a rural preserve should be established between the cities and the county to preclude all speculation and activity that is currently being directed at the mountain and its slopes. The recent application by a developer for several hundred homes in the Morgan Territory area is a case in point.

The other area in serious danger of instant urbanization is that rural portion of East Contra Costa County in the Brentwood-Byron area. An East County Planning Study Committee should be formed, comprised of a cross-section of all interested parties in that area, including home-owners, ranchers, landowners, home builders, and city and county officials.

It is fortunate that the park dedication ordinance was finally adopted by the county board of supervisors, and I am very proud that I was able to play an instrumental part in its adoption.

Mr. L. H. "Abe" Lincoln (Rep.)

During my ten years in the California Assembly, I had the privilege of serving on the Assembly Committee on Conservation. As a result, I have developed a keen and sensitive regard for protecting and cleaning our environment, for preserving and creating park lands and recreational areas, for protecting our coastline, and for maintaining other open spaces.

We cannot stop growth, but we must make a concerted effort to place logical restrictions on growth, with a view to protecting our environment and the welfare and safety of our people. One cannot view our polluted air and rivers, the diminution of the quality and quantity of our Delta, the construction of ticky-tacky developments on our beautiful hills and valleys, and the endangerment of our coastline without realizing that our legislators have been grossly negligent.

I pledge dedication to environmental issues and vigilance over our parks, coastline, open spaces, air and water, and all other aspects of our environment.

Mr. Jack C. Marshall (Rep.)

I am the only candidate working toward raising the Delta water standards. I want legislation to protect the fish and wildlife of our very unique and valuable region. Protecting our water is vital to survival.

My greatest concern is: how do we guarantee that it is our hand on the faucet? Without clean water, all life in the area will deteriorate. Under present water quotas (for Southern California), the flow of the river is reversed so the silt from the south bay is clogging our Delta. Our fish are dying, being chopped up in pumps before they can spawn, algae is flourishing, and the Delta is dying. I will fight hard to save it.

I have addressed myself to the problem of

"systematic littering" in our community with campaign signs. I have planted trees instead of signs in every community. I propose ordinances forbidding campaign signs.

I would like to close with a special request to each of you to join me in another critical battle...saving our beautiful stand of Coulter Pines; and assuring that the projected Coal Mines Area Regional Park becomes a reality.

Mr. Craig Z. Randall (Dem.)

A critical problem to conquer in the immediate future is saving the Delta from certain destruction or permanent damage by reason of the export of water by both our Northern neighbors and Southern California. Effective steps must be taken soon. It is not enough to simply oppose the Peripheral Canal..I do..but that leaves us with the same problem...the degradation and destruction of the Delta caused by the ever-increasing export of water through presently existing facilities. We need legislative guarantee of high quality water standards being maintained in the Delta. Once this stop-gap measure is accomplished, we can then develop new sources of water through better management, reclamation, desalinization to protect Delta water.

I will work towards expanding our parks and open spaces, preservation of our seashore for the benefit of all the people and an effective program to clean up our air and water resources and dispose of solid waste.

Mr. Edward Thomas (Dem.)

It is not a question of the desirability of retaining our beautiful rolling hills, but a matter of how long we will be able to afford these lands. The property owner is faced with the decision of when and how many units can be packed on his land and is forced to sell. Taxes are so high on vacant land that it is poor investment to hang on to it.

An obvious answer is for the city to purchase the land. A Stanford study came up with the incredible conclusion that it would be cheaper over a 30-40 year period for the city to purchase land for parks, than to provide services for the developed area.

Another suggestion is a bold new idea..not new since Europe discovered it centuries ago. High rise surrounded by open space. We need to go up, not out. It can be financed by the power of government to rezone using the increased profits to buy the open spaces. A partial solution to an amazingly complex problem.

We could use war taxes to refund to local control and solve our problems here. One hundred billion dollars would take care of a lot of America's problems.

Mr. Charles Vail (Peace & Freedom Party)

There is no question about the desirability of open spaces, green belts, and related environmental matters. Basically, everybody is agreed on the need for clean air, water, and improving our total environment.

The real question is: "How are we to achieve our goals on all these things?" "Who is to pay?"

Organized labor is constantly threatened with unemployment by industry for any kind of environmental controls, or a larger share in the cost of government, from which most of these needs must be met.

Many millions of dollars are lost to the people through the tax loopholes allowed big business and large-income individuals.

And many millions and billions are lost to the people, in the military and industrial complex that feeds on continuous wars that are the greatest polluters and defoliants of air, water, nature, space and humanity.

We must have PEACE.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR ASSEMBLY, ELEVENTH DISTRICT

Mr. John Knox (Incumbent, Dem.)

I have proposed a constitutional amendment that would have the State of California provide loans to help industrial firms meet the tough, new anti-pollution requirements set by the state and federal governments.

The measure, ACA 81, and companion bill AB 1925 would authorize the sale of revenue bonds to raise funds that cannot be obtained through conventional financing.

For example, a company might be required to spend several million dollars to build a water purification plant to stop polluting the Delta. If unsuccessful in obtaining funds through normal channels, the firm could apply to the state for funds through the sale of relatively low interest revenue bonds. This loan would be approved if the state agency administering the program was satisfied that normal banking sources had been exhausted. A firm repayment schedule would be established to assure that the bonds could be retired on time.

The main purpose of this proposal is to curb the conservation "backlash" now threatening our efforts to improve our environment.

Labor and business have become increasingly worried that the ecology movement will destroy business and job opportunities. This need not be the case if we work together to solve environmental problems. In fact, the building of anti-pollution facilities will increase jobs.

This legislation is backed by the State Chamber of Commerce and, if approved by the Legislature, will be put to a vote of the people in November.

STATEMENTS OF CANDIDATES FOR FOURTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mr. Jerome Waldie (Incumbent, Dem.)

The all-out attack being mustered by certain interest groups against conservation compaigns and against environmental legislation is achieving a great deal of success.

Probably the most dramatic evidence of that effectiveness is the recent action in the House of Representatives, where the House adopted a weakened version of the Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972.

The perils encompassed within this weak version (the Senate bill is much stronger in many ways) are many, but the main one is the frontal assault on the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, or NEPA.

NEPA has been the principal device whereby conservationists have been able to force federal agencies to prepare environmental impact statements before approval of a project that would have a major impact on the environment.

The use of this device, Sec. 102 (C), by such groups as the Environmental Defense Fund and the Sierra Club has been successful beyond our dreams. Thus, it has invited the wrath of the public works advocates..the dam and canal builders.

The Senate and House Public Works Committees are even now meeting in Conference on a compromise version of the house and senate bills.

It is vital to all who have an interest in the environment that the senate version dealing with NEPA and other important facets of the bill be reported out by the conferees.

This is so important that I urge an immediate vigorous writing campaign to the chairmen of the House and Senate Public Works Committees: The Honorable Jennings Randolf in the Senate, and The Honorable John Blatnick in the House. Ask them not to weaken NEPA.

This may be the most important environmental issue this year. We must stop the pendulum from swinging too far against the environment.

Mr. Floyd Sims (Rep.)

Business must be allowed to expand and grow, but not at the expense of the environment. Our National Government can increase business incentive to clean up by providing faster tax write-offs on plants and equipment designed for protection of our natural resources. I recommend stiffer penalties for those who continue to pollute with no thought of change or improvement.

California's changing water needs have required vast changes in our water system. The Peripheral Canal could do irreparable damage to the Delta Area. If elected to office, I would work to see that no change be made which would adversely affect the Delta Region.

Walking, jogging, and bike riding are three of the best types of physical exercise known, yet to do any of these on many of our roads is to risk both life and limb. Many of our roads should be widened to allow a six to-ten-foot pedestrian right-of-way on each side of the road. This could be done fairly inexpensively and could be incorporated into our county planning. Local, easily accessible trails should be established so those who wish to engage in this type of physical fitness program could do so with the least amount of inconvenience.

POLITICAL CANDIDATES SPEAK UP ON ECOLOGY

"What will you do for ecology if elected?" was the question we asked candidates running for the office of Contra Costa County supervisor, the Legislature, and the Congress in the June primary. Space limitations obliged us to exclude candidates for the 8th Congressional District, most of which is outside our county, and for the 4th Supervisorial District, where Mr. Dias is running unopposed. (There is to be no election in Districts 1 and 4 this time.)

All candidates had little more than a week's lead time. Some candidates were unreachable. Others still had not responded as we went to press, several days after the deadline. Consequently, please don't interpret the absence of a statement from a candidate as evidence that he or she is not concerned about the environment.

Waiting until the last minute before going into print has given the newsletter a different appearance. We did our own typesetting instead of farming it out to the printer. That way, we could hope to get the political statements into your hands before the election, without making the printer work overtime.

Here, then, is a guide to what you may expect of your choices for political office:

PARK COUNCIL NEWS TO TAKE FIVE

With this bumper issue, Park Council News goes into its summer moult. It is due to reappear, perhaps in improved form, in the fall.

In the meantime, why not let us know what you think of the newsletter? Tell us how you think it can be improved. Let us know what you'd like to contribute to it.

The editorial task has changed dramatically in the past few years, during which we have moved from a shortage of ecology news to an abundance. At one time we had to scratch around to find material; now, we have to agonize over which 5% of the copy we can run. The remaining 95% goes unused, despite its great interest and value. Any advice you can give to simplify the selection process would be very welcome.

FROM NEWS TO DUES

May we remind you, in a small voice, to pay your dues if you haven't done so already? Our modest income is derived from dues and donations, and just about every cent goes to pay expenses. We rely on you.

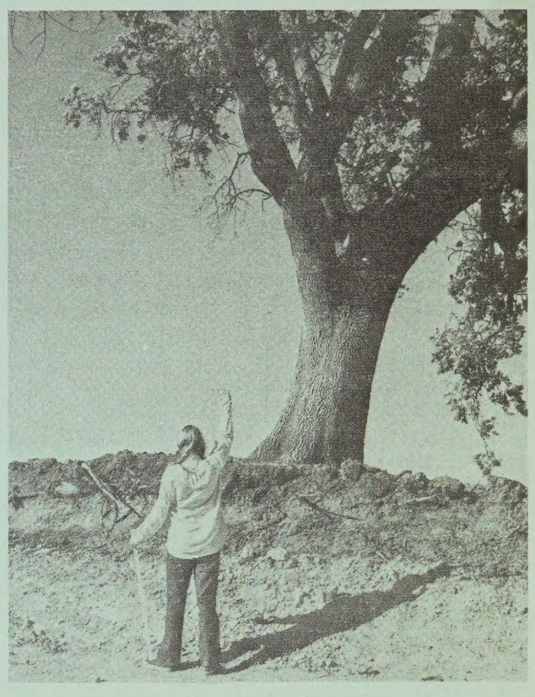
NO MORE MEETINGS UNTIL FALL

Now that summer's here, no more Park Council board meetings will be scheduled until the fall.

DEVELOPER, SPARE THAT TREE
by John H. Baier, M. D.

Walnut Creek residents with their referendum vote at least temporarily saved the huge oak pictured on Shell Ridge (Park Council News, Jan., 1972).

Martinez area residents can now look at Vine Hill Ridge and see what happens, even when developers promise to save the trees. Roots of a huge oak have been extensively cut on two sides. It is likely the tree can now fall in a high wind. If this does not happen the tree may still die, due to opening of the hill and the drying-out effect this must have on the remainder of the root system. The Vine Hill Ridge development was passed by the Martinez City Council over objection of adjacent area residents. Walnut Creek residents may wish to drive to the 500 block on Vine Hill Way in Martinez to see an example of what they hopefully prevented on Shell Ridge.



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PARK COUNCIL NEWS

Vol. 72 No. 8 December 1972

Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park Council, P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.
Editor: Patrick Whittle, 176 Waterman Circle, Danville, CA 94526 (Phone 837-3478).
President: William S. Dickinson, Jr., 4261 Brentwood Circle, Concord, CA 94521 (Phone 689-4474).

Dear Park Council Brothers and Sisters:

I would like to urge each of you to sit down at this time and write a check for $5.00 (or more) to the Contra Costa Park Council. By doing so, you will not only renew your annual membership in the Park Council, but you will also demonstrate that you care about the direction our county and state is to take on environmental issues during this and succeeding years. Also, it's your annual dues that make possible each issue of the Park Council News, one of the best sources of environmental information in this county.

The fact is simple: The Contra Costa Park Council cannot continue as an effective force for conservation common sense without your financial support. So please, write that check today, and send it, along with your current address and ZIP Code, to P.O. Box 4322, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Thanks!

John Gravell,
Treasurer

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WIN

Mary Lee Jefferds, Berkeley environmental consultant, unseated Paul E. Harberts, Director, Ward 1, EBRPD, to win one of three District seats contested in the Nov. election. The other two incumbents--Fred Blumberg, Ward 6, and Clyde Woolridge, Ward 2, beat back challengers to retain their seats. John J. Leavitt, Ward 4, was unopposed.

Mrs. Jefferds ran as part of the slate called Political Action Coalition for the Environment (PACE). Roy Nakadegawa, another PACE candidate, won a seat on the AC Transit Board.

Conservationists scored victory after victory up and down the state. Passage of the bitterly contested Proposition 20 Coastal Protection Initiative was called "an overwhelming victory for the conservation movement." Conservationists expected that final financial reports would indicate they had been outspent by as much as 15-to-1 by developers and oil companies and power companies hoping to prevent regulation of coastal development. "Californians want not only the preservation of the coastline but also rational land use planning," one conservationist told the press. "This was a classic dualism," said Sierra Club spokesman John Zierold, "the money and power of the companies matched against the grass-roots conservation movement. This time those forces who clobbered the public interest on other initiatives previously opposed this one too. But this time the electorate recognized their disguise, saw behind the whiskers and dark glasses, and saw the real opponents: the Whitaker and Baxter (public relations firm) and their corporate clients both inside and outside the state. Proposition 20 passed not because of any grand strategies," Zierold said, "but because the environmentalists went to the precincts. And they stayed with it."

Congratulations to Manny Lindner, Wil Siri, and all Contra Costans who helped save the California Coast.

PARK COUNCIL NOVEMBER MEETING REPORT

The high cost of land in the county has been at issue now that the county park dedication ordinance has been in effect six months. Developers have paid over a half-million dollars in park fees, but only 17 acres of unusable land has been dedicated.

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The board of directors of the Park Council expressed their concern about implementing the ordinance without forcing the county back into the parks "business." The supervisors have consistently shied from any chance to enter this "business".

Vice President Al Burton is setting up a meeting with County Planning Director Anthony Dehaesus and key representatives of the cities and unincorporated communities in the county to evaluate the operation of the ordinance.

The council reiterated its stand to hold the ordinance at least to its present standards and to oppose the "watered down" version which Dehaesus has recommended.

The operations sub-committee, consisting of Supervisors Al Dias and Jim Moriarty, is going over the proposed changes. In addition to the "round table" discussion with Dehaesus, it was suggested by council director Ed Gustely of Moraga that Moriarty call on his original committee, which drafted the ordinance, to make an evaluation.

Contra Costa Park Council is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California. The Council is dedicated to fostering the natural beauty of the county, preserving open space, and providing opportunity for healthful recreation. Contributions ($2 a year for students; $5 a year and up for individuals; $10 a year and up for organizations) are tax-deductible.

Dickinson suggested the possibility of the EBRPD acting as an interim holding agency for the land acquired under the ordinance. Only Fred Blumberg, president of EBRPD and a resident of Lafayette, opposed such an interim agreement.

It was also suggested that the County Natural Resources and Recreation Commission in conjunction with the county planning staff might help administer the ordinance.

The hiring of Al Burton as a special consultant to the commission was unanimously backed.

County counsel John Clausen's opinion on hiring Burton at $3,000 annually (including expenses) was that the law allowed for custodians and other part time help, but did not specify the position of consultant.

Director Peg Kovar, a Walnut Creek councilwoman, said in regard to environmental laws that it was time for creative legal thinking, such as offered by the city attorney of Walnut Creek.

Mrs. Kovar will report to the county board of supervisors Tuesday, Dec. 5, on two items;

1. Enforcing the aims and objectives of the Save Mount Diablo Committee.

2. Using a portion of the federal revenue sharing funds for the purchase of land on Mount Diablo.

The Park Council supports Mrs. Kovar's stand.

The Save Mount Diablo group will sponsor a wine tasting party (fund-raiser) at Heather Farms on January 7.

In other action, the council:

- Backed Director Joann Johnson's request to bring pressure on Gov. Ronald Reagan by that "one extra push" to sign the Wild Rivers Bill (SB 107) into law. Joann pointed out that a P.O.M. (public opinion message) costs only 95 cents for 15 words.
- Backed Mrs. Johnson's request to urge the board of supervisors to take action to preserve the grave sites at Somersville's Welsh Cemetery. Vandals have all but destroyed the historic cemetery, which is located at the Coal Mines Park site. It was suggested that the gravestones and fencing be stored in safety until the park can be restored and patrolled.
- Unanimously adopted Dick Wilson's motion to compliment Sen. John Nejedly on his stand to delete the Burton-Alamo segment of Highway 93 from the state freeway system. Nejedly was commended also on his opposition to the Peripheral Canal. The draft of the letter that the council will send to Nejedly (with copies going to other legislators) will state that "It would be a disgrace if our tax dollars were used to finance a structure having a detrimental impact on our environment..."

Director Tom Castagnola, the political science major at the University of California who was elected to the Pleasant Hill Recreation Commission in the November election, said that the board of supervisors was again considering having only day meetings. The Park Council backed Castagnola's recommendation that the board continue its practice of having one night meeting a month. If this is not done voluntarily by the supervisors, it was mentioned that Castagnola might start to petition for an initiative which would be put on the ballot.

POINT PINOLE PARK PROGRESSES

Emergency powers to assist in halting trespassing motorcyclists and hunters at Pt. Pinole have been granted to EBRPD, which is wrapping up details in the $6,000,000 purchase of 1,000 acres there for a shoreline regional park.

EBRPD General Manager Richard C. Trudeau had been given emergency powers by the Park District Board to take any apprepriate action for protecting the environmentally fragile shoreline acreage. Hulet C. Hornbeck, EBRPD Chief of Land and Water Acquisition and Management, said Park District Rangers will be warning trespassers, issuing citations, or making arrests as the situation warrants.

Trudeau said one or more Rangers will be called to duty to patrol the area. In addition, he added, private patrolmen for the Bethlehem Steel Corporation--which still owns title to the land--and Richmond police will be enforcing existing rights of the property owner against trespassers.

Larry Olson, EBRPD Chief of Public Safety stated that one or more Rangers with two-way radio cars or four-wheeled drive vehicles will patrol the area. He said an understanding had been reached with the Richmond police chief's office.

"This land will soon be owned by the public, and we must take all necessary steps to protect it," Trudeau explained. "All persons entering the property now are trespassers and will be until title is vested in EBRPD. The area is fragile and erosion can be started easily, irreparably injuring the park."

CANAL TRAIL GETS GO-AHEAD

A packed house of supporters and detractors of the proposed 11 1/2 mile Contra Costa Canal Recreation Trail heard directors of the EBRPD vote unanimously to proceed toward development of the hiking, biking, and equestrian right of way through portions of Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, and Concord. The Board of the Contra Costa Water District gave its approval Nov. 15, and application for matching funds has already been made to the Dept. of the Interior.

The EBRPD board approved a 25-year management agreement with the Contra Costa County Water District covering the canal segment

from Mile Posts 31.63 to 43.07 and approved a $10,000 appropriation as the Park District's share of the matching money cost. Through the assistance of the Water District, EBRPD's application for a $75,000 federal matching grant was endorsed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation with the hope that the funds will come from the U.S. Interior Secretary's Reserve Contingency Fund.

Other matching funds include $15,000 from the Water District for safety fencing; $10,000, Contra Costa County; and $10,000 each from Pleasant Hill and Concord. Thus far, Walnut Creek has made no contribution and matching funds are $20,000 short.

No motorized vehicles of any kind will be permitted on the canal trail.

The 25-year pact required EBRPD to guard the water against contamination and prohibit such public contact with the canal as fishing, boating, or body-contact sports.

"It is the objective," the pact states, "... to enlarge the use of the right of way of the Contra Costa Canal system in the public interest by creating...a continuous recreation trail..."

EBRPD has already estimated that maintenance and policing along the 11 1/2 mile segment of trail will cost about $13,000 annually. If the $150,000 total in matching funds becomes available, construction on the trail can begin in the 1972-73 fiscal year.

Safety facilities must be installed along the lining of the canal and at all canal crossings. Adequate signing will be installed along the trail. Staging, rest, and landscaped areas eventually would be provided.

Most vocal opponent of the major recreational facility was David Lubkirt, Pleasant Hill, who presented the directors with a stack of petitions which he said bore the names of 90 citizens objecting to the opening of the trail.

Lubkirt said that he believed the canal trail would lead to increased problems of litter, crime, noise, and diminution of the tranquility of adjacent property owners such as himself. He also said that crossings of busy streets posed a safety hazard.

"Homeowners are being punished," said Lubkirt, and pointing out that in some cases the road surface was higher than the level of adjacent back yards, added, "This will destroy our existing tranquility."

Other Pleasant Hill residents voicing concern over the proposed trail were Dale Shockley, Neill Sheridan, and Mrs. James Lackey, who variously expressed worries over policing of the strip at night, access to the canal by persons holding water rights, the adequacy of proposed safety fencing, and the eventual total cost of the development.

Shockley said, "No one has come up with the real total cost...we are being two-bitted to death."

Citizens backing the trail plan included Brian Murphy, of the Diablo Valley College Ecology Club, who presented the board with endorsements which he said represented the sentiments of 15,000 DVC students; John Dolan, of the Pleasant Hill High School Ecology Club; Joseph E. Hipple, a wrestling coach at Pleasant Hill High School, who spoke as a representative of the Sierra Club; Bruce Lee, Trails Chairman, 5th Region, California State Horsemen; and Al Burton, of the East Bay Area Trails Council and the Contra Costa Park Council.

PARK DEDICATION ORDINANCE REVIEWED

A hearing was held Nov. 8 by the Board of Supervisors to discuss possible changes in the county park dedication ordinance. Those supporting change spoke of inequities and hardship to the building industry. Others, including representatives of conservation groups, preferred to keep the ordinance essentially unchanged. They stated that it would be most unwise to alter what is regarded as a good ordinance. A study of the ordinance is to be continued by the County Government Operations Committee, composed of Supervisor Dias, chairman, and Supervisor Moriarty.

County Planning Director Tony Dehaesus explained that the Planning Commission has recommended a reduction in land dedication from 500 to 400 square ft per dwelling unit, with possible credit for recreational facilities up to 50% of their cost. He also said that operation of the ordinance in its first year had given the county 11 acres of land and over $500,000 with which to buy neighborhood parks. A communication from the Mayors Conference stated that they recommend retaining the 500 sq ft per dwelling unit as currently required.

Speaking for the Park Council, Alvin Burton also supported retention of the 500 sq ft. He pointed out that there had been a 19% increase in the value of building permits while the ordinance was in effect, compared with the comparable period of the preceding year when the ordinance was not in effect. This situation applied to the unincorporated areas only. In view of this increase, it is hard to believe the complaints that the ordinance is an unbearable hardship.

A number of speakers strongly urged retention of the 500 sq ft requirement, pointing out that this figure still fell short of the standard laid down by the League of California Cities model ordinance, which calls for 5 acres per 1,000 people. Assuming three people per dwelling unit, this calls for 650 sq ft. Also, several speakers recommended that no credit be given for recreational facilities, stating that the purpose of the park dedication ordinance is to provide land for public parks, not swimming pools for the exclusive use of residents of the developments.

HELP NEEDED FOR MT. DIABLO

Peg Kovar

The Save Mt. Diablo group asks for your help in expanding the State Park. Here's what to do:

1. BE THERE on December 5, when Peg Kovar, President of the Save Mt. Diablo group, will address the Board of Supervisors regarding the aims and objectives of the group. Peg will ask for the use of a portion of the County's revenue-sharing funds to purchase additional lands for expansion of the state park. Demonstrate to the supervisors that you would like to see them save the mountain, both by resolution and by allocating part of the pending revenue-sharing funds. Your presence does make a difference.

2. Buy and help sell tickets for the bike raffle that will take place January 7 at the Save Mt. Diablo Wine Tasting Party, Heather Farms Park, Walnut Creek. Call Art Bonwell (686-1151) or Bob Canning (935-3980).

3. More important, buy and sell tickets for that party, which will feature an art show, photography show, and a continuous slide show depicting unique features of Mt. Diablo. Call Peg Kovar (939-7637) or Gen Sattler (685-5315) for tickets at $5.00 per donation.

4. Invite a member of the Speaker's Bureau of Save Mt. Diablo to speak to a group or party. Our programs, which include slides, have been well received. Call Jim Nelson (682-4949).

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL PARK COUNCIL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
from the Board of Directors.

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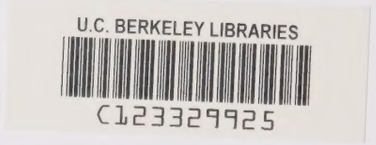

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